

prosecution in the present application. It is therefore respectfully submitted that newly added claims 48-9 are allowable over the prior art of record.

New claims 50-51 are non-means plus function claims and claims 52-53 are method claims corresponding to claims 48-49. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are likewise allowable over the prior art of record.

Newly added claims 54 is a newly added device claim containing selected features from allowable claim 48. It is respectfully submitted that newly added claim 54, as well as claims 55-67, which depend from claim 54, are likewise allowable over the prior art of record.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art of record. Accordingly, an issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Wilburn L. Chesser
Registration No. 41,668

JONES JAIN, L.L.P.
Suite 800
1990 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 955-3610

Date: 3/24/00